

## PROCLAMATION

Today we commemorate Lunar New Year and join families in California, Asia and around the world in welcoming the Year of the Ox.

Lunar New Year, predominantly celebrated by millions of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Californians of Chinese, Korean, Singaporean and Vietnamese descent, is a time of joy and renewal. On this special day, families celebrate and prepare for the arrival of a new year of good health and prosperity.

As we look forward to a joyous new year, we proudly reflect on the contributions of API Californians who literally built California – from America's first transcontinental railroad to the farms and small businesses foundational to our state's economy. We also recognize that discriminatory laws, xenophobic policies and mistreatment suffered by API Californians are a blight on our state's history. We must also continue to call out and stand against the anti-Asian rhetoric and violence that increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Californians, we must reject past and present prejudice and embrace inclusion.

Today, let us join our API friends and neighbors in celebration. We also encourage California schools to take time to educate our students about the traditions of Lunar New Year and the past and present contributions of the API community in our state.

As the door to the Year of the Ox opens, we wish good fortune, health and happiness to all those who celebrate.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim February 12, 2021, as "Lunar New Year."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.  
Secretary of State